

National Priorities for the Clean Water Act

Section 104(b)(3) NPDES-Related Grant Program

The following is a preliminary listing of the FFY2004 National Priorities, with example project areas, for the CWA Section 104(b)(3) NPDES-related grant program. Priorities #1 and #2 are considered for funding before priorities #3 - #13.

1. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program Streamlining Tools

- Development and demonstration of any of the tools identified in the 28 October 2002 *"Report on State-EPA Permit Re-engineering and Streamlining"*, including tools for environmental prioritization of expired permits and expedited re-issuance of lower priority permits, tools for electronic processing of permits, watershed-based approaches to NPDES permit issuance, etc.

- Development and demonstration of process and environmental performance measures to assess the effectiveness of streamlining tools.

2. Implementation of Phase 2 Storm Water and other Wet Weather Programs

- Development and demonstration of tools and approaches to implement the Storm water Phase 2 Strategy, including for example, tools to assess MS4 storm water management plans, permitting approaches such as watershed-based permits, approaches to integrate storm water and other wet weather controls on a watershed basis, tools for education and outreach to the regulated community and public.

- Development and demonstration of tools to monitor water quality trends or load reductions due to implementation of storm water permit programs.

3. Confined Animal Feeding Operations/ Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO/ AFO)

- Demonstration by integrator and contract growers of alternative markets for excess manure

- Demonstration of voluntary Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) for AFOs with 300 to 500 animal units.

4. Wet Weather (Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), Storm Water) Demonstration Projects

- Water quality-based CSO program (including Use Attainability Analysis)

- Integration of CSO, SSO, and storm water requirements

- Measuring the effectiveness of storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Trends analysis of load reductions due to implementation of storm water BMPs

- Storm water monitoring techniques

- Estimating quantified benefits of enhanced sewer performance (e.g., reduced backups)

- Quantifying the impacts of sewage overflows

- Evaluation of impacts of peak wet weather flows on Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)

- Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance of POTWs

- Inflow/Infiltration reduction

- Sewer rehabilitation methods

5. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Programs:

- Demonstrate stakeholder watershed approach

- Nutrient trading demonstration project

- Watershed integration of NPDES programs

- Innovative Permit Writing Tools

6. Pretreatment:

- Demonstration of performance measures

- Facilitation of innovative technology transfer

7. Environmental Management System (EMS):

- Benefits and impacts of EMS

- EMS adoption by public agencies

- Non-Governmental Organizations participation in EMS projects

8. Cooling Water Intake Structures (Clean Water Act, Section 316(b)):

- Innovative technologies that reduce impingement and entrainment of aquatic organisms into cooling water intakes
- Ecological effects of cooling water intake structures on aquatic environments
- Effectiveness of ecological restoration activities in reducing the impact of cooling water intake structures on the aquatic environment

9. General Assistance Program (GAP) Grants for Infrastructure Funding related to:

- Asset Management
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) issues for small communities
- Capacity Building for Tribes/Native Villages/Environmental Justice

10. Biosolids:

- Demonstrations of regional biosolids approaches
- Food crop applications on biosolids and/or reclaimed water (assessments, research, - demonstrations analyses)

11. Onsite/Decentralized Systems:

- State-level adoption of EPA management guidelines
- Overcoming institutional, regulatory and funding barriers to implementation of decentralized options
- Development of tools to assist communities with conducting comprehensive, watershed-wide assessments of risks associated with decentralized wastewater systems

12. Operator Training and Compliance Assistance

13. Water use efficiency:

- Demonstrations, research, analyses and studies
- *EPA may also consider other project areas for funding to the extent authorized by CWA Sec. 104(b)(3) and to the extent funds are available for such project areas